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INFORMA

COUNTRY Albania

Situation in Albania SUBJECT

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PLACE **ACQUIRED**

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General

- The food situation in Albania is deteriorating. Cases of death from starvation are reported. This deterioration is caused by crop failures resulting from unfavorable weather conditions and by the cessation of Yugoslav aid to Albania.
- The Albanian Government has ordered the peasants to sow all cultivatable land without exception. Extremely severe penalties are threatened if this order is not obeyed.
- 3. The Greek inhabitants of Southern Albania believe that the Greek Army will pursue the Greek guerrillas into Southern Albania and "liberate" Southern Albania (Northern Epiros).
- "Volunteer" labor on public works has recently attained proportions that amount to terrorism.
- Some time between 10-15 September 1948 a Soviet steamship arrived in Valone with a carge of flour. Unleading had not begun by 16 September 1948.
- 6. There is a rumor in Albania that the Hungarian Government has given a complete railroad train to Albania. It is to be used on the railroad line between Durres and Tirana.

Local Military Information

- 7. A brigade is based in the village of Polican near Pogoni. There is a radio station in the same village. Each of the villages of Tsiatista and Sopil are bases for one battalion; these two battalions belong to the brigade based in Polican.
- 8. Along the Greek-Albanian border in the Pogoni sector shelters, suitably camouflaged, have been constructed. The existing fortifications in this region were inspected in early September by Colonel Tachir Kandare, Chief of Engineers of the Albanian Army. On his arrival in Pogoni he was accompanied by a group of Albanian officers, among whom there was said to be a Russian colonel NOTICE, THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST

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- 9. Permanent fortification have been constructed on the mountain of Kalabar village and at a place called Gropa a Kazanit.
- 10. A force of 800 men is encamped at a placed called Platania at the village of Kardhikaq (on the highway to Delvine).
- 11. A mechanized unit of the Gjinokaster Division and six pieces of field artillery are located at the Gjinokaster airdrome.

C. Electric Power Plant

12. Following an order of the Albanian Government, work commenced again (30 August 1948) on completing the Selita hydroelectric station. An Albanian State company has taken over this work, which had previously been undertaken by the Albano-Yugoslav Electric Company. The latter company removed its machinery after Tito and Hoxha broke off relations.